January 3, 2005

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
TW-325
Washington, DC 20554

The following comments are submitted by the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound and are in response to the WT docket NO. 04-344, released by the Commission on October 15th, 2004 and refer to the paragraphs numbers in the NPRM.

- 39- We agree with the commission's conclusion that the public interest would be best served by having channels 87b and 88b designated for exclusive use of AIS.
- 40- We supports the elimination of note US223 from the Table of frequency allocations and that they amend the regulations to include designation of channels 87B and 88B for use as AIS Channels. We also believe the Commission could consider the future use of channels 87A and 88A as low power, simplex, ship to ship, noncommercial or port operations channels.
- 52- We does not support the proposal for a Frequency Coordinator role for MariTel. Industry groups around the country have provided this service for years at a minimal, one time cost to the mariner.
- 60- We do not believe the commission should take any action that would restrict the availability of AIS data for use by the maritime community. The MariTel sharing proposal could have a very negative effect on the creation of beneficial public/private agreements between the US Coast Guard and private maritime associations.

Sincerely,

Robert T Bohlman Executive Director

INFORMATION IS EVERYTHING